

## Examples of Materials

The following is an excerpt from page 28 of *How to Create a Reusable Resource Center: A Guidbook for Champions*, by Katherine & Walter Drew, Ed. D., Michael Ohlsen, and Mary Pichierra

### Categories of Materials

There are four main categories of material donations:

1. By-products, rejects, overruns from manufacturers.
2. Unusable finished goods made available through the closing of a product line, warehouse or whole company.
3. Obsolete, outdated or expired merchandise, including promotional stock.
4. Office furniture, computers and equipment, display materials.

### Specific Types of Materials

**Adhesives/tapes** – anything from window stripping to butt roll from tape manufacturers stickers and promotional items

**Architectural and home furnishing firms** – samples of wallpaper, fabric, carpet, formica

**Ceramics** – Tile of all sizes, fixtures

**Electronics/wiring** – transistors, casings, computer parts, magnets, circuit boards, wiring in boxes or rolls, multi-colored pieces of wiring, thick wire for sculpting

**Fabrics** – all fabric: bolts, strips, curtains, rugs, canvas, velour, quilts, woven labels

**Felt** – cut outs, end pieces, lettering, numbers, full sheets, rolls, flat stock

**Foam** – cut outs, end cuts, packaging inserts and encasements, full sheets, boards, adhesives, foam core, gutter board

**Leather** – scraps, cut outs, strips, hides, sheepskin

**Marketing materials** – billboards, posters, photographs, key chains, promotional items, conference decorations

**Metal** – springs, connectors, washers, nuts, screws, nails, brackets, casing, gears, buckles  
 (NOTE: Watch for sharp edges and oily residues)

**Mylar** – all adhesive paper or vinyl in rolls or flat sheets

**Packaging Materials** – plastic, foam, wrap, adhesive rolls, blocks, sheets

**Paper** – paper, oak tag, crepe paper, cardboard, strips or end-cuts, cards, adhesives, stickers, big sheets, small sheets, magazines, white or colored encouraged; this category is limitless!

**Pens, pencils, markers** – when an office moves these often get thrown out; some have expiration dates

**Plastics** – Injection molded pieces, rods, tubes, braiding, beads, caps, buttons, wheels, Plexiglas, cutouts, polyethylene sheets, large cellophane rolls (different colors and diameters), dinnerware trays

**Vinyl** – small or large pieces, sheets, strips

**Wood** – smooth, non-splintered pieces, turnings, dowels, triangles, circles, squares, cubes, rectangles, odd shapes, curves, finished or unfinished, masonite

**Yarn, string, thread** – thick or thin yarn, shoelaces, lace, lanyard, twine, strapping, empty spools